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AGN. NO. ____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

August 12, 2003

It is an important goal of the State educational system to develop educational principles that increase environmental awareness. Assemblymember Fran Pavley has proposed legislation AB 1548, that would establish a State Office of Education and the Environment within the California Environmental Protection Agency. This office would be required to develop a model curriculum incorporating environmental principles and to submit this model for consideration as part of the State Board of Education's approved school curriculum. The cost of performing this work would be absorbed by Cal EPA and the State Department of Education.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board send a five signature letter supporting Assemblymember Fran Pavley's legislation, AB 1548, and other efforts to promote environmental education efforts for elementary and secondary school students to the Governor, the Senate President Pro Tem, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Senate and Assembly Republican leaders, the Chairs of both the Senate and Assembly Appropriation Committees, and members of the County's State legislative delegation.

mcc I:\add\AB 1548

MOTION

MOLINA

YAROSLAVSKY

KNABE

ANTONOVICH

BURKE



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

August 8, 2003

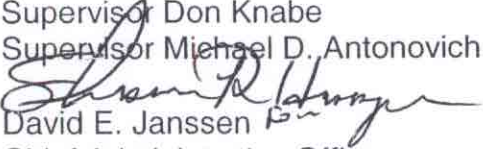
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To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 1548 (PAVLEY), (ITEM NO. 8, AGENDA OF AUGUST 12, 2003)

Item No. 8 on the August 12, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the Governor and others in Sacramento, supporting AB 1548 (Pavley), which would establish a State Office of Education and the Environment within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and other efforts to promote environmental education for elementary and secondary school students.

AB 1548 would rename the existing Office of Integrated Environmental Education to the Office of Education and the Environment within the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), which is part of CalEPA. The author believes that there is a serious lack of critical information about the environment in educational curriculum and standards. This bill requires State agencies responsible for education and environmental protection to develop new educational content and standards for public school students, and to integrate them into the instructional materials as if they were part of the current standards. This is a departure from the method used to develop core curriculum standards, which involves a public process by a State commission made up of various stakeholders, and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE).

Under provisions of AB 1548, the State Department of Education (SDE), SBE, and the Secretary of Education, in cooperation with the IWMB, are required to develop and implement a teacher training and implementation plan. The bill also requires that the education principals include concepts relating to environmental sustainability, water, air,

energy, forestry, fish and wildlife, resources, oceans, toxics and hazardous waste, integrated waste management, integrated pest management, public health and the environment, pollution prevention, and resource conservation and recycling. Finally, the bill establishes the Environmental Education Account within the General Fund to accept monies from Federal, State, local, private, and individual sources for use in implementing the bill's intent.

The County Office of Education has informed us that it has not taken a position on AB 1548. The Department of Public Works recommends that the Board support AB 1548, and we concur, because effective environmental education should lead to improvements in the quality of life for the County's citizens, while reducing long-term costs for environmental clean-up and pollution prevention efforts. **Support of AB 1548 is consistent with Board policy to support measures which promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay watershed, river and wetland areas.**

The Assembly passed AB 1548 by a vote of 71 to 3, on May 8, 2003. It is currently scheduled for hearing by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 18, 2003. According to a Senate Committee on Education staff analysis, supporters of AB 1548 include the California Coastal Commission, Heal the Bay, the City of Hawthorne, the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, the Ocean Conservancy, the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program, the Ballona Wetlands Foundation, the Santa Monica Bay Audobon Society, and others. There was no recorded opposition as of the July 9, 2003 staff report.

DEJ:GK
MAL:DRS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Legislative Strategist